

an instream flow right. Now, instream flow rights are critical when it comes to a scenic river designation because the recreational value of the scenic river, fish and wildlife just having water in the river, the other instream uses that are important for recreational purposes are not possible, cannot possibly be protected without an instream flow right. And only certain entities under our statutes, Natural Resources Districts and the Game and Parks Commission, only those two types of entities are authorized to obtain an instream flow right. So what we have with the Conway amendment, unless we amend it, is an entity in charge of scenic rivers which has absolutely no power to do the one thing that is most critical for a scenic river and that is to obtain an instream flow appropriation. So that's reason number one why this whole scheme is not workable unless it is switched over to Game and Parks. Reason number two is that the Natural Resources Commission has no interest in scenic rivers and recreation. If you look at the history of the Natural Resources Commission you will see they have no such interest. If you look at the makeup of the Natural Resources Commission you will see why they have no such interest. They have no such interest because they are not the representatives chosen democratically across this state for the populations across this state. The Natural Resources Commission is a group of 15 or so people, most of whom are designated from a particular river area or another particular river area, one from each river area which has no relationship whatsoever to population and which means that this particular commission is dominated (1) by rural interests, and (2) not only be rural interests, but by the rural interests that are interested in irrigation and in the use of water for purposes other than recreation. So to put this goal into the hands of the Natural Resources Commission, to use the same analogy as before, it's like putting the design of the hen house into the hands of the fox. So it doesn't make any sense in terms of their natural inclinations and the only result of doing this if you don't change it to Game and Parks, will be that you will never see an initiation of a scenic rivers designation. You'll never see it explored. You will never see it even talked about. Does the Natural Resources Commission support a real scenic rivers bill designation? Do they want this? The answer is no, they don't. So it seems to me at the very least we ought to put control of these matters into an agency that really wants to work with it, that has a genuine interest in it, that has the management skills and the management expertise to deal with it...